

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Original digital data stored in a memory is searched for on the basis of an input image, difference information is extracted by comprising the retrieved  
5 original digital data and the input image, and the difference information is composited to the original digital data. Furthermore, digital data generated by composition is stored in the memory. Also, original digital data stored in a memory is searched for on the  
10 basis of an input image, and when no original digital data is retrieved, the input image is converted into vector data, and the image that has been converted into the vector data is stored as digital data in the memory. Moreover, region segmentation information obtained in a  
15 block selection step and an input image are composited, the composite image is displayed on an operation screen of an MFP, and a rectangular block to be vectorized is designated as a specific region from the displayed region segmentation information. As a method of  
20 designating the specific region, for example, the user designates one or a plurality of rectangular blocks in an image using a pointing device.